

3/17/2026

Re: Testimony in Support of H 7481 Health and Safety of Pupils “Seizure Safe Schools”

Dear Chair McNamara and members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Clare Tyler, and I am from District 19, Cranston.

I support H 7481, the Seizure Safe Schools Act. The Seizure Safe Schools Act would allow school professionals to be trained to respond to seizures and give rescue medications to kids who are actively having seizures.

I was diagnosed with epilepsy when I was 20 months old. I have a rare genetic disorder called PCDH19 epilepsy, which causes seizure clusters. This means rescue medication administration as soon as possible is of the utmost necessity for me to stop the cluster and prevent further clusters. I went to public schools through the fourth grade, and because my mom had the time, resources and knowledge to advocate for me, which not all parents have the privilege of, one person knew how to administer my medication in case I had a seizure: the school nurse. However, the school nurse was rarely on site. If I had a seizure in school when the nurse was not around, no one would've known what to do. No one would have administered my rescue medication, which would stop the cluster of seizures, a process where multiple seizures occur in a short amount of time. They would wait and call an ambulance. Not only would this have delayed the administration of my rescue medication, which can usually stop the seizures on its own and prevent further clusters, but it would have resulted in the unnecessary cost of an ambulance ride and hospital admission. For low-income children, this unnecessary cost would be particularly harmful.

Right now, only a school nurse can administer emergency seizure medication to stop a child's seizure. If the nurse is not on-site (which is often the case), then the only other option is to call 911, which uses up precious time, takes longer to stop the seizures, and is costly. Other school personnel can be trained to administer the emergency medication to avoid the costs of an ambulance.

Not having options for others to administer emergency medication can mean that children with epilepsy cannot fully participate in school activities (such as field trips). Like other children with disabilities, children with epilepsy deserve to fully participate in all school activities.

I urge you to vote for H 7481.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to write in favor of bill 7481.

Sincerely,
Clare Tyler

Cranston, RI 02905
District 19